

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). A synthetic antisense oligonucleotide compound ~~17 to 50~~ 20 nucleobases in length comprising at least one modified nucleobase, and targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearyl-CoA desaturase (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein said antisense oligonucleotide ~~fully and~~ specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearyl-CoA desaturase and inhibits the expression of human stearyl-CoA desaturase by at least 10%.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

4 (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

5 (Original). The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

6 (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

7 (Original). The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

9 (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 1 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

10 (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

12 (Original). A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13 (Original). The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

14 (Original). The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

15 (Previously Presented). A method of inhibiting the expression of human stearyl-CoA desaturase in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues *in vitro* with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of human stearyl-CoA desaturase is inhibited.

Claims 16-23 (Canceled).